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10/061,476	01/31/2002	Michael L. Kleven	W2100/262177	3701

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EXAMINER
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SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/17/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/061,476

Applicant(s)

KLEVEN ET AL.

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/30/07</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With respect to claims 1-19, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Allen et al (5,892,535)** and claim 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Allen et al (5,892,535)** and in view of **Medin (2004/0205339)**, applicant amends claims and argues that Allen does not describe the creation of new content (see page 6 of 7 of Applicant's Remarks).

In response, Examiner disagrees. Examiner notes Applicant's argues, however, Allen receives and decodes various media from various networks and encodes and combines the media to generate a new content in an appropriate format for distribution to subscribers over distribution network 216 (figs.1-7, col.15, lines 17-48, line 66-col.16, line 15, line 45-col.17, line 32, col.19, lines 3-36 and col.24, line 17-col.25, line 1+). Furthermore the clause "adapted to," "adapted for," etc., recited in the various claims limitations, do not positively recite the functions being performed by the various elements recited in the claims limitations (see MPEP 2111.04). Hence the amended claim limitations do not overcome the prior arts of record. The amendment to all the claims necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection discussed below. **This office action is made final.**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Allen et al (5,892,535)**.

As to claim 1, note the **Allen** reference figures 2-10, discloses flexible, configurable hierarchical system for distributing programming and further discloses a system for creating new content from a plurality of source content, comprising:

A first decoder (figs.2, 6-10, 210/206), which is adapted to receive and decode at least one digital source content signal as a primary signal; at least one second decoder (210/206 or 202/204/206), which is adapted to receive and decode at least one other source content (Media Local Server 'MLS' 202) as a secondary signal (col.15, line 17-48, col.16, line 21-col.17, line 51);

Storage circuitry (of 202/206N), adapted to store at least decode source content from the decoders (col.17, lines 8-50 and col.18, line 23-col.19, line 36);

Graphics processing circuitry (Processors 202/206) coupled to the storage circuitry, which is adapted to produce new content using the source content by transforming and combining the source content from the decoders to produce the new

Art Unit: 2623

content (figs.1-7, col.15, lines 17-48, col.17, lines 8-50, col.18, line 23-col.19, line 36 and col.24, line 17-col.25, line 1+);

At least one first encoder (of 206N) adapter to encode at least some of the new content into digital format for output to a distribution system; at least one second encoder (206N) adapted to encode some of the new content output to the distribution system (col.21, line 3-col.25, line 1+);

A clock adapted (722) to control timing of at least one of the first and second decoders and at least one of the first and second encoders; and control functionality adapted to control production of the new content for output to the distribution system, as directed at least in part by control signals received from a host, where a plurality of systems carrying out the process are adapted to display national programming and programming based on new content adapted for subset of users of the national programming, at least partially under control of the host (col.16, line 45-col.17, line 50, col.24, line 3-col.25, line 1+ and col.26, line 23-col.28, line 1+).

As to claims 2-3, Allen further discloses where the control functionality also receives control signals from a locally stored micro-program (col.26, line 23-col.28, line 1+).

As to claims 4-8, Allen further discloses where the control functionality is adapted to control production of new content that corresponds to a geographic area, to members selected from, characteristics, preference and interests, to one or more markets where some of the source content is addressed and non-addressed (col.8, line 62-col.9, line 52 and col.16, line 63-col.17, line 51).

As to claims 9-11, Allen further discloses a second decoder is adapted to receive source content from the host and a second decoder to receive content from the local source and further adapted to accommodate analog video signals and at least one of the encoder is adapted to produce analog signals (col.15, line 17-48, col.16, line 21-col.17, line 51 and col.21, line 3-col.25, line 1+);

As to claim 12, the claimed "A process for creating new content from source content..." is composed of the same structural elements that were discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

As to claim 13, Allen further discloses where the process identifies and uses only source content and control signals having predetermined addressing (col.8, line 62-col.9, line 52, col.16, line 63-col.17, line 51 and col.30, line 13-col.31, line 1+).

Claim 14 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claims 15-17 are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 4-8.

As to claims 18-19, Allen further discloses where the control of the host is real time control and some of the encoding and decoding happens in real time as governed by a clock (col.24, line 3-col.25, line 1+ and col.26, line 23-col.28, line 1+).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Allen et al (5,892,535)** and in view of **Medin (2004/0205339)**.

As to claim 20, note the **Allen** reference figures 1-00, discloses flexible, configurable hierarchical system for distributing programming and further discloses a system for creating new content from a plurality of source content, comprising:

Decoders (figs.2, 6-10, 210/206), for receiving first digital content signal from a host and receiving a second content signal from a non-host, decoding the first and second content signals, transforming and combining components of the first content and the second content signal into video content (col.15, line 17-48, col.16, line 21-col.17, line 51);

Graphics processing circuitry (Processors 202/206), according to control signals which at least partially emanate from the host, and at least partially from a non-host stored control program, processing and organizing the video content form the new content and encoding the new content for distribution on a cable television system and a plurality of systems carrying out the process are adapted to display national programming and programming based on new content adapted for subset of users of the national programming, based on the new content for users of national programming in the geographical area of the cable television system, at least partially under control of the host (col.16, line 45-col.17, line 50, col.18, line 23-col.19, line 36, col.21, line 3-col.25, line 1+, col.24, line 3-col.25, line 1+ and col.26, line 23-col.28, line 1+);

Allen is silent to where the new content includes local weather conditions for the users of national programming in the geographical area.

However, note the **Medin** reference figs.1-4, discloses system and method for delivering multimedia services which includes local weather conditions customizes per region or locality (page 2, [0032-0035], [0047] and [0104-0108]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Medin into the system of Allen to target weather reports to various localities or geographical areas to inform users in advance, up-coming weather conditions.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Holtz et al (6,760,916) disclose method, system and computer program product for producing and distributing enhanced media downstream.

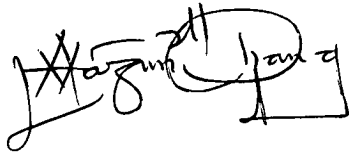
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.



Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)**. If you would like assistance from a **USPTO Customer Service Representative** or access to the automated information system, call **800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annan Q. Shang', written over a rectangular box.

**Annan Q. Shang**